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Alphonse Daudet

Complete Works



Series Twelve

The Collected Works of
ALPHONSE DAUDET

(1840-1897)



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The Delphi Classics Catalogue

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alphonse Daudet". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

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Version 1

The Collected Works of
ALPHONSE DAUDET



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Complete Works of Alphonse Daudet



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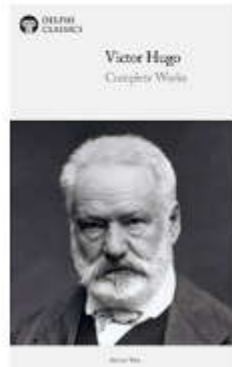
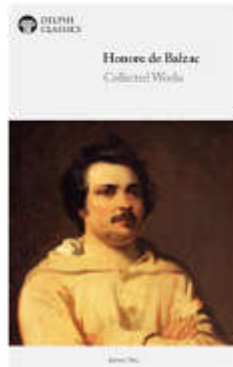
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The Tartarin Trilogy



Nîmes, a city in Southern France — Alphonse Daudet's birthplace



The birthplace, Maison Sabran

Tartarin of Tarascon (1872)



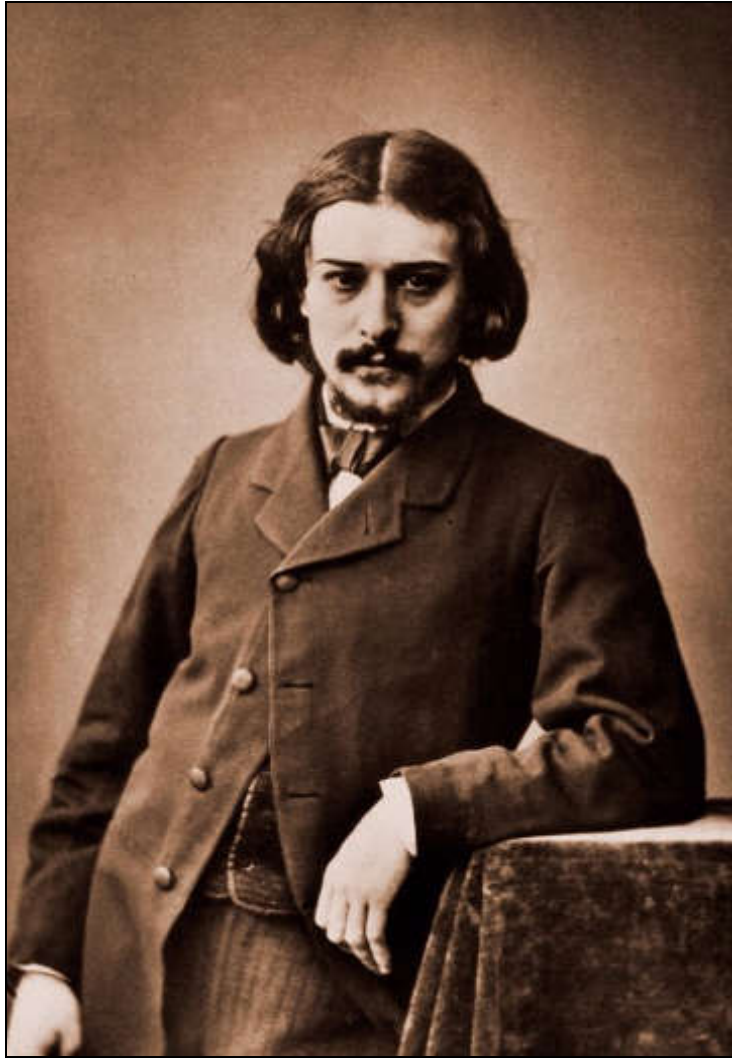
Translated by Translated by Oliver C. Colt, 1896

Original French Title: 'Tartarin de Tarascon'

Tartarin of Tarascon was first published in Paris in 1872. It was the first in the *Tartarin Trilogy*, which also included *Tartarin of the Alps* (1885) and *Port Tarascon* (1890). While *Tartarin of Tarascon* was not Daudet's debut novel, it was his first book to truly capture readers' attention and it was successful enough to garner a trilogy. The author was born in Nîmes, France; his father was a silk manufacturer who faced financial ruin in the late 1850's. There was not enough money to send Daudet to university so he went to work in a school in Alès in Southern France for six months. It was an experience he loathed intensely and as soon as he could, he moved to Paris to live with his elder brother who was pursuing a career in journalism.

A humorous novel set in the town of Tarascon in the South of France, the protagonist is a peculiar middle-aged man, whom the author conceived of as a combination of Cervantes' famous characters Don Quixote and Sancho Panza. In the novel, Tarascon is a town so obsessed by hunting that there are no longer any animals left to kill. The hunters are now reduced to sitting together in a group and shooting at their hats as they are tossed into the air. Tartarin is the best at this game, but when he inadvertently talks himself into going on a hunting expedition in Algeria, he soon learns that he may not be quite as skilled an adventurer as he imagined...

The book has been adapted for cinema multiple times, including a 1908 version helmed by the famous magician turned director, Georges Méliès.



Daudet, as a young man



Illustration by Émile Benassit for Barbarin de Tarascon, 1869

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